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24 APR 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR :



SUBJECT : President's Press Conference on U-2 Incident  
May 1960

In reviewing excerpts from President Eisenhower's press conference on the U-2 incident dated 11 May 1960, the following comments of President Eisenhower are noted and called to your attention for whatever pertinence or applicability they have to current conversations regarding the NRO.

"My second point: The nature of intelligence-gather activities. (Sic)

"These have a special and secret character. -- They are, so to speak, 'below the surface' activities. They are secret because they must circumvent measures designed by other countries to protect secrecy of military preparations.

"They are divorced from the regular visible agencies of government which stay clear of operational involvement in specific detailed activities.

"These elements operate under broad directives to seek and gather intelligence short of use of force -- with operations supervised by responsible officials within this area of secret activities.

"We do not use our Army, Navy or Air Force for this purpose, first to avoid any possibility of the use of force in connection with these activities, and second, because our military forces, for obvious reasons, cannot be given latitude under broad directives, but must be kept under strict control in every detail.

"These activities have their own rules and methods of concealment which seek to mislead and obscure -- just as in the Soviet allegations there are many discrepancies. For example, there is some reason to believe that the plane in question was not shot down at high altitude. The normal agencies of our Government are unaware of these specific activities or of the special efforts to conceal them."

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